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## PREFACE.

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mitted; the writing of 2,500 letters, and the receipt of over 2,000; journeys to all the towns where the main branches of the family started, and to many other places beside; the diligent search among and examination of town, church, probate, and family records, often yellow with age and almost obliterated by time; copying the moss-covered inscriptions in the burial places of the dead, or employing others to do the work when not personally convenient; months of waiting for answers to letters of inquiry, and the perplexity over some missing link in the chain, or how to find a family whose residence is unknown, or to settle conflicting records when different dates, each apparently correct, are given of the same event. But I have been well repaid for it all, in the large amount of interesting family history saved from certain destruction in a few years, which in its present form will be preserved for many generations to come.

I would ask the most indifferent and uninterested person of our name: Is not this book calculated to do good, and be of real benefit to the family? Does not your own heart glow with honest pride, to know that you belong to one of the oldest New England families, and one that shows a good and honorable record for ten generations? And will it not stimulate every Starr boy to higher aspirations and more noble effort, to read of a goodly line of ancestors, who, by an industrious, useful, and godly life were prosperous and successful, respected and honored to the last, and died in the certain hope of a glorious immortality, and lead him to follow the worthy example of so many of his name and blood?

I most gratefully acknowledge the kind assistance and encouraging words received from so many with whom it has been my pleasure and privilege to correspond—an honor to our name and family; and those too, who have not had the courtesy to return or acknowledge my letters have my kindest wishes that, when they are gone, somebody will care for their names and memories more than they have for their fathers.

It was not my original intention to print these records, but to leave that work to more competent and experienced hands; yet, fearful that years might pass before it would be done, and at the urgent solicitation of many of the family, I decided—conscious of my inability—to undertake the task, and now respectfully dedicate my work to those for whose use and information it has been thus prepared, viz.:

### THE MEMBERS OF THE STARR FAMILY.

I am not a book-maker—judge not my work by that standard, but by the fraternal spirit that inspired it. Criticise charitably—call me one who loves the name of Starr.

BURGIS PRATT STARR.

HARTFORD, Aug. 15, 1879.

## "COAT-OF-ARMS,"



## Starr.

Miss Eliza Ann Starr, the artist who so kindly contributed to the attractiveness of this volume by her etching made expressly for it [see 248], of "*The Meadow Homestead*" of the Starr family in Deerfield, Mass., also furnished the above copy of the Coat-of-Arms from the original, which has been sacredly treasured by the Deerfield family for several generations; and with it the following most appropriate

### INTRODUCTION.

"The History of the Starr Family can have little interest for a general reader; unless, indeed, this general reader is capable of interest in a simple narrative of family history, without ornament, without striking incidents or brilliant successes. It is the story of many a New England family, inheriting its characteristics from an old English ancestry. But if there is nothing in this book to catch the eye of the lover of sensational stories, there is nothing to shock the sensibilities; nothing for which the present or future generations need blush; rather, we may say, worthy to rouse an honest pride in the name which has well deserved to bear on its escutcheon the even balance of Justice, amid its constellation of stars, with that one Star of Hope on the *gule* of its lion *couchant* pointing its motto, VIVE EN ESPOIR."

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### ABBREVIATIONS.

b. for born; bap., baptized; d., died; m., married; unm'd, unmarried; res., residence; dau., daughter; Dea., deacon; dis., discharged; cem., cemetery, etc. The name of a denomination indicates preference, not necessarily church membership.